



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,101	04/21/2004	William J. Lutkus	0275V-000915	5999
27572	7590	08/11/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			MITCHELL, KATHERINE W	
P.O. BOX 828			ART UNIT	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			PAPER NUMBER	
			3677	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/829,101	Applicant(s) LUTKUS ET AL.	
	Examiner Katherine W. Mitchell	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2006.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/21/2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>20060727</u> . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lutkus et al. USP 6224311 in view of Whitford Worldwide's "11 Reasons why Chromium-free Xylan® 5230 is specified by DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and General Motors", hereafter called Whitford paper.

Re claims 11--18: Lutkus USP 6224311 teaches a fastener assembly comprising:

a threaded fastener formed of a 1st metal

A metallic fastener insert

A receiving element

(see Fig 1 for these 3 items)

Wherein at least one of the inert or receiving element is formed of a 2nd metal (col 1 line 32-35; while the fastener is formed of a different metal in col 4 lines 54-55.) Col 3 lines 14-23 teach a fluoropolymer coating to reduce galvanic corrosion.

However, Lutkus is not specific that the fluoropolymer coating is chromate free. Whitford paper teaches the desirability of a chromate free coating to meet the US's "end of Life" Vehicle directive 2000/53/EC, further teaching that DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and General Motors all require such a chromate free coating for their fasteners. Further,

XYLAN ® 5230 is specifically taught as advantageous specifically because it is a chromate free fastener coating, as required by the European Union, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and General Motors. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lutkus and Whitford paper before him at the time the invention was made, to modify Lutkus as taught by Whitford paper to include the chromate free fluoropolymer coating, in order to obtain environmentally acceptable, low friction, corrosion resistant coatings, as specifically taught in the Whitford paper, page 2. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because immediate Market acceptance would have been obtained, as taught/suggested by Whitford paper. Further, compliance with environmental and purchasing standards would be met.

Further Re claims 12-18: Lutkus teaches these properties in col 2 lines 1-33, col 3 lines 6-14, 15-44, and col 4 lines 1-3, 19-20, 54-55, and 65-68.

Re claims 19-20: Lutkus teaches the use of tangless inserts in col 3 lines 1-4:

3

second ends, 36 and 38, respectively. At least one of the ends may be provided with a driving tang or notch for tangless embodiments for assistance in the installation or removal process.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the tangless insert must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 6/22/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. Applicant is correct that a prior art teaching must anticipate or make obvious every limitation in a claim. However, applicant is claiming an apparatus - a fastener structure. In response to applicant's argument that the prior art does not teach the performance of the fastener in a specific test, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the

claim. Further, applicant is arguing an inherent property of the chromate free coating, since no further specifics are provided.

7. If applicant is trying to claim or argue the chromate free coating as advantageous for reasons other than environmental compliance, the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

8. Applicant argues that somehow examiner is saying that the inherency of the performance in a prevailing torque test is the motivation to combine. That is definitely not examiner's rational. The motivation to combine Lutkus and the chromate free coating of the Whitford paper is to comply with production and environmental requirements - if major manufacturers and the entire European marketplace require chromate free coatings, suppliers are certainly motivated to provide such coatings to keep these customers, or at least still be a possible supplier. Once one is motivated to use chromate free coatings, and does so, one would THEN inherently realize their improved performance in the prevailing torque test, since identical structures perform identically.

Conclusion

9. This is a continuing examination of applicant's case. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, this action could properly be made final even though it

is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). However, examiner notes that applicant's clear presentation and professionalism have convinced examiner that this would be unprofessional for examiner to do, requiring further fees and not in keeping with the office's goal of customer service, so the action is not being made final to give applicant an opportunity to respond. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

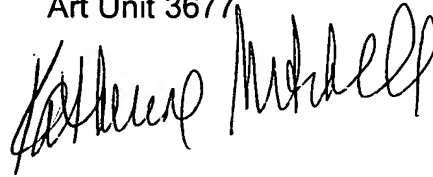
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine W. Mitchell whose telephone number is 571-272-7069. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Katherine W Mitchell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine W Mitchell", is written over the printed name and title.